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Non-governmental organizations

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2003 regular session

(New York, 5-23 May 2003)

Summary

At its 2003 regular session, held from 5 to 23 May 2003, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had before it 107 applications for consultative status, including applications deferred from its 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 sessions. Of those applications, the Committee recommended 57 applications for consultative status and deferred 48 applications (two organizations having withdrawn their applications) for further consideration at a later session. The Committee closed consideration of two complaints by States; and also had before it three requests for reclassification of consultative status; it recommended that two organizations be reclassified and deferred consideration of the remaining request to its resumed 2003 session. In addition, the Committee reviewed the quadrennial reports of 65 organizations; and heard 14 representatives of non-governmental organizations.

The present report contains five draft decisions on matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council.

By draft decision I, the Economic and Social Council would:

(a) Grant consultative status to 57 non-governmental organizations;

(b) Reclassify two non-governmental organizations;

(c) Note that the Committee had taken note of the quadrennial reports of 65 organizations;

* E/2003/100.

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(d) Note that the Committee had decided to close the complaints submitted by States against two organizations.

By draft decision II, the Economic and Social Council would suspend the consultative status of Reporters sans frontières-International for one year.

By draft decision III, the Economic and Social Council would implement the electronic meeting system ("Paperless Committee") in future sessions of the Committee on a trial basis for a period of one year with a view to its implementation on a permanent basis upon the successful completion of the trial phase, and request the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of adequate staff and facilities in order to implement the decision.

By draft decision IV, the Economic and Social Council would authorize the Committee to hold a resumed session for a period of one week from 15 to 19 December 2003 in order to complete the work of its 2003 session.

By draft decision V, the Economic and Social Council would take note of the report of the Committee on its 2003 regular session.

The report also contains one resolution adopted by the Committee and brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council. In that resolution, the Committee recommended that the Council decide that the electronic meeting system should become, on a trial basis for a period of one year, with a view to its implementation on a permanent basis upon the successful completion of the trial phase, a normal mode of operation for the Committee, in order to facilitate its deliberations and reduce or eliminate the volume of paper documentation that the Committee was required to handle; and requested the Secretariat to prepare a document for the consideration of the Council before its substantive session of 2003 containing detailed information on the resource requirements for the implementation of the Council's decision, inter alia, on the possibilities for offsetting the requirements against costs saved by the introduction of the electronic meeting system and on other options for meeting those requirements from within existing resources, so as to enable the Council to take a decision that would be fully informed in this regard.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To grant consultative status to the following 57 non-governmental organizations:

Special consultative status

Academy for Future Science

All-Russian Social Fund — "Russian Children's Foundation"

Antiviolence Center

Association d'aide aux enfants cancéreux

Association for Democratic Initiatives

Association for Solidarity with Freedom-deprived Juveniles

Association of Support for HIV-Infected and HIV-Affected Children and Their Families

Buddha's Light International Association

Centre d'accompagnement des autochtones pygmées et minoritaires vulnérables

Focus on The Family

Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action

Fund of Aid for Youth

Global Action on Ageing

Green Earth Foundation

Heritage Foundation

Indigenous and Peasant Coordinator of Communal Agroforestry

Instituto Qualivida

International Center for Not-for-Profit Law

International Committee for the Indians of the Americas

International Corrections and Prisons Association for the Advancement of Professional Corrections

International Council on Human Rights Policy

International Institute for the Rights of the Child

International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

International Planned Parenthood Federation (European Region)

International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade

Japan Civil Liberties Union

Jubilee Campaign

Kids Can Free the Children

Lassalle-Institut

Little House of Nazareth

Mandat International

Millennium Institute

Mumbai Educational Trust

Non-governmental Ecological Vernadsky Foundation

Oasis Open City Foundation

Population Concern

Priests for Life

Recontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme

Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation

Southern Diaspora Research and Development Center

Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation

Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation

World Job and Food Bank

Roster

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Dzeno Association

European Cyclists' Federation

European Industrial Gases Association

Fondation haitienne pour l'habitat et l'intégration des sans-abris

Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa

Hague International Model United Nations

International Society for Human Rights

International Solid Waste Association

Plan International Norway

Professional Institute for Advanced Wound Recovery

Sustainable Cities Foundation

Unión de Selvicultores del Sur de Europa

Worldwatch Institute

(b) To reclassify the following two non-governmental organizations from the Roster to special consultative status:

International Association of Charities

Movement for a Better World

(c) To note that the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of the following 65 organizations (years of reporting indicated in parentheses):

AFS Inter-Cultural Programs (1998-2001)

American Association of Retired Persons (1995-1998)

Amnesty International (1996-1999)

Association européenne contre les violences faites aux femmes au travail (1998-2001)

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren Organisationen (1998-2001)

Canadian Environmental Network (1997-2000)

Catholic International Education Office (1998-2001)

Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production of the Argentine Republic (1996-1999)

CIVICUS — World Alliance for Citizen Participation (1997-2000)

Comunicación Cultural (1996-1999)

Daytop Village Foundation (1995-1998)

Family Care International (1997-2000)

Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (1996-1999)

Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (1997-2000)

Femmes actives au foyer (1998-2001)

Fondation El Kef pour le développement regional (1997-2000)

Fondazione Giovanni e Francesca Falcone (1996-1999)

Fondazione San Patrignano (1997-2000)

Forest Alliance of British Columbia (1996-1999)

Foundation for International Training (1997-2000)

Fundación de Ayuda contra la Drogadicción (1997-2000)

Global Cooperation Society International (1997-2000)

Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America (1997-2000)

HelpAge International (1995-1998)

Human Rights Advocates (1997-2000)

Institute for International Economic Cooperation and Development (1997-2000)

Institute of Internal Auditors (1997-2000)

Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (1997-2000)

Inter-American Housing Union (1997-2000)

International Air Transport Association (1997-2000)

International Association for Religious Freedom (1995-1998)

International Association of Judges (1997-2000)

International Association of Soldiers for Peace (1995-1998)

International Association of University Presidents (1997-2000)

International Association of Women in Radio and Television (1997-2000)

International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights (1997-2000)

International Council on Management of Population Programmes (1997-2000)

International Federation for Home Economics (1997-2000)

International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (1996-1999)

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (1997-2000)

International Human Rights Law Group (1997-2000)

International Indian Treaty Council (1997-2000)

International Lactation Consultant Association (1996-1999)

International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (1997-2000)

International Union of Socialist Youth (1997-2000)

International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (1997-2000)

Japanese Association of International Women's Rights (1998-2001)

Match International Centre (1996-1999)

National Action Committee on the Status of Women, Canada (1997-2000)

National Council of Women of Canada (1997-2000)

National Space Society (1996-1999)

Oxfam Great Britain (1994-1997 and 1998-2001)

Pathways to Peace (1997-2000)

Public Budget International Organization (ASIP) (formerly known as Asociación Interamericana e Ibérica de Presupuesto Público) (1998-2001)

Rivers Club (1997-2000)

Rotary International (1997-2000)

Rural Reconstruction Nepal (1997-2000)

Sisterhood Is Global Institute (1997-2000)

Society for Comparative Legislation (1998-2001)

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (1995-1998)

Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (1998-2001)

Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (1997-2000)

World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (1998-2001)

World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (1996-1999)

World Society of Victimology (1995-1998)

(d) To note that the Committee closed the case of two complaints submitted by States against the following organizations:

I. France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand

II. Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples

Draft decision II
Suspension of consultative status

The Economic and Social Council decides to suspend, for a period of one year, the special consultative status of Reporters sans frontières-International in accordance with paragraph 57 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

Draft decision III
Implementation of the electronic meeting system ("Paperless Committee")

The Economic and Social Council takes note of resolution 2003/1 of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the implementation of the electronic meeting system "Paperless Committee",[1] decides to implement the electronic meeting system referred to therein in the future sessions of the Committee on a trial basis for a period of one year, with a view to its implementation on a permanent basis upon successful completion of the trial phase, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of adequate staff and facilities in order to implement the present decision.

[1] See chap. I, sect. B.

Draft decision IV
Resumed 2003 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to hold a resumed session for a period of one week from 15 to19 December 2003 in order to complete the work of its 2003 session.

Draft decision V
Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2003 regular session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2003 regular session.[2]

B. Resolution brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following resolution adopted by the Committee is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

Resolution 2003/1
Implementation of the electronic meeting system ("Paperless Committee")

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations,

Mindful of the growing volume of documentation related to its annual programme of work,

Expressing appreciation to the Secretariat for the efforts made to introduce through a pilot project an electronic meeting system ("Paperless Committee"),

Recognizing that the pilot project has been carried out successfully during its current session and could represent a practical, efficient and cost-effective method for the conduct of the work of the Committee in its future sessions,

1. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council decide that the electronic meeting system should become, on a trial basis for a period of one year, with a view to its implementation on a permanent basis upon the successful completion of the trial phase, a normal mode of operation for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, in order to facilitate its deliberations and reduce or eliminate the volume of paper documentation that the Committee is required to handle;

2. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a document for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council before its substantive session of 2003 containing detailed information on the resource requirements for the implementation of the Council's decision, inter alia, on the possibilities for offsetting the requirements

[2] E/2003/32 (Parts I and II).

against costs saved by the introduction of the electronic meeting system and on other options for meeting those requirements from within existing resources, so as to enable the Council to take a decision that is fully informed in this regard.